(b) The amount of compensation paid to the dependents of dead and injured rail passengers for train accidents during the last three years is as under:— .

Year	*Amount of compensation paid (Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	535.95
1996-97	709.31
1997-98	240.89

*The claim cases arising out of accident are mostly not decided in the same year and therefore the amount paid may not be for the accident taken place in the same year.

Penalty on CONCOR under Customs Act

2312. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) has been imposed penalty by the Customs authorities a number of times for contravention of provisions of Customs Act, 1962 by the CONCOR officials at Inland Container Depot and Container Freight Station, New Delhi;

(b) if so, how many times such penalty-was imposed on CONCOR during 1996, 1997 and 1998, and

(c) whether any action has been taken by the CONCOR management against the officials of CONCOR, responsible for such penalty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTRY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two times, as per details below:-

1996—One
1997—Nil
19.98—One

(c) (i) In case of penalty imposed its 1996, CONCOR has not accepted it and an appeal has been filed against the order in Central Excise and Gold Control Appellate Tribunal. As such the question of taking action against any CONCOR Official does not arise.

(ii) In case of penalty imposed in 1998, action has been taken against the persons responsible.

Increasing the Frequency of Chennai-Rajdhani Express

2313. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to increase the frequency of Chennai-Rajdhani Express to six days a week, as in the case of other metros like Mumbai and Calcutta;

(b) what steps are being taken to minimise the running time to 24 hours from the existing 28 to 29 hours; and

(c) by when the above proposals would be implemented, to give relief to passengers travelling to Chennai from Delhi?